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LETTER

TO A

L Allen Jr.

FRIEND in the Country, &c.

SIR,



I Am greatly oblig'd to you for any Concern you shew to have the famous *Memorial* of the famous Mr. *Roland Cotton* set in a true Light ; which I shall cursorily, clearly and impartially do, and doubt not but that you (as well as every unprejudiced Person) will be of Opinion with me, That the *Memorial* and *Memorialist* deserve nothing but *Scorn*, and *Contempt*. And that its not to be accounted for, why the Honourable House of Representatives did not rather *spurn* it out than take the least Notice of it ; of which you'll be the better Judge, by the Letters and Proofs herewith presented you. The first in Order, is a Letter to a Friend at *Woburn* ; of which the following is a Copy.

To Mr. Samuel Thompson at *Woburn*.

SIR,

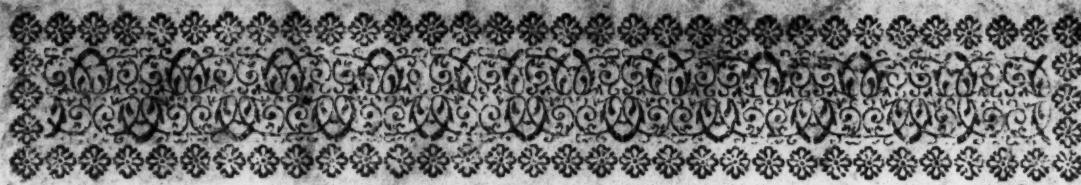
"I Perceive Mr. *Roland Cotton*, your late Representative, greatly
" imposes upon your Town, by pretending to be in the Country
" Interest ; and that he was *Nay* in voting about the Supply of the
" Treasury ; both which, to my certain Knowlege, are notoriously
" false. As to the First, to my certain Observation, as well as many worthy
" Gentlemen in the Court, he is as great a Tool as any in it ; and it is the

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* It was not known what Town he was of, till they picked him up : * Except those who are Tools to him

" versal Surprize of all good Men, That the Town of *Woburn* is so
 " unjust to themselves and the Province, as to send him. And as to
 " his being *Nay*, it is notoriously known, he was *Neuter* in the House ;
 " and I presume, put himself into the Papers to deceive his Town :
 " But hope their Eyes will be open, and they'll be thoroughly con-
 " vinc'd, That he can't faithfully do his Duty as a Clerk and as a
 " Representative (if he does it as either) and that for the Good of their
 " Town and Country, they'll reject him, and send a better Man. The
 " above, (if disputed) I can easily prove by Gentlemen of undoubted
 " Character.

Your Humble Servant,

BOSTON, May
15. 1740.



James Allen.

Give me Leave, Sir, to remark, That as to my Opinion of his being a *Tool*, it's not worth while to labour it, because I apprehend it's *self evident*; and of which can produce such Proofs as the Nature of the Thing admits of. But as to his being *Nay*, in voting about the Supply of the Treasury, it is notoriously known, he was *Neuter* in the House, (though this Year, for supplying within 1741, perhaps to receive his own Pay) which I prove by sundry worthy Gentlemen, then Members of the House, as appears by the following Certificates :

To Mr. *Flag of Woburn.*

SIR, *alias Knight of the Post*

"I HAVE not the least Inclination to concern my self in the Dis-
 " pute between Messi. *Allen* and *Cotton*. But being inform'd,
 " that it's reported at *Woburn*, in order to hurt Mr. *Allen*'s
 " Character, as if when you and Mr. *Thompson* came to enquire
 " of me, Whether Mr. *Cotton* was really (as Mr. *Allen* in his Letter
 " had charged him) a *Neuter* on the Question for supplying the Tre-
 " aury----That I told them I had seen that Letter, and refused to sign
 " it, because it was false. I think Truth and a tender Regard to my
 " Neighbour's Character, require me to declare, That if any such Re-
 " port there be, it is grossly false and injurious : And you knowing it
 " to be so, ought to contradict it wherever you find it.---- You know
 " well

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" well I told you, that as Mr. *Cotton*, when his Turn came, should
" have declared himself either *Yea* or *Nay* upon the Question then put ;
" so Mr. *Allen*, when he represented, that he did not, should have
" given the Account of that Matter in all its Circumstances.

Yours,

BOSTON, June
18. 1740.

Thomas Cushing, jun.



Mr. Edward Bromfield's Certificate.

" **I**nasmuch as Mr. *James Allen* has declar'd, That when the Members of the House of Representatives answer'd a Question put to them on the 25th of *March* last, about supplying the Treasury, to be drawn in before the Year 1741, Mr. *Roland Cotton* was *Neuter* ; And the said Mr. *Cotton*'s Conduct in that Affair has been represented so as to bear injuriously on Mr. *Allen*'s Character, I think my self oblig'd in Justice to represent the Matter as fully and exactly as I can remember.

" After the House of Representatives had resolved to vote by *Yees* and *Nays* on the aforesaid Question, Mr. *Cotton* was directed to take the List of the Members, and call upon every One in order as they stood on the List : When the Call was over, several Members were uneasy that Mr. *Cotton* should pass over his own Name and not vote with the rest : And being question'd by some of the Members of the Reason of his Conduct, he reply'd, *That he was not call'd upon* ; and also added, *That the Speaker and Clerk were excus'd from voting, unless when there was a Tye.*

Edward Bromfield.

BOSTON, June
20. 1740.

Mr.

* The circumstances are given by ye other certificates
* Profoundly ignorant or wilfully false !

Mr. Adam Cushing's Certificate.

March 25. 1739. In the House of Representatives.

"THE Question was put, *Whether the House would proceed to make any Supply of the Treasury with Bills of Credit, to be drawn in before the Year 1742?* Which Vote was decided by Yeas and Nays : And in trying said Votes, Mr. Cotton stood Neuter till the House was adjourned that Evening : And the Reason he gave that Evening was, *That in such Votes the Speaker and Clerk were excused, unless there should be a Tye.* And since, viz. this present Year, he told me the same Reason.

Adam Cushing.

June 24. 1740.

But some of his Sticklers (who perhaps are afraid an honest Letter might go to their Towns, and let 'em know when tender Points, and Affairs of Consequence come upon the Carpet, their Members dodge and keep out of the Way) have urg'd that saying, *He can't do his Duty as Clerk and Representative, is a great Reflection*; I think none at all, as I meant it, (and of which Opinion some of his own Friends have been) from the Multiplicity of the Business, and not in an adverse Sense ; which I doubt not could have made appear in either Sense, could the Honourable House have stoop'd so much below their Honour as to have entred into the Merits. But as Mr. Memorialist threatens to sue at Common Law, I may then perhaps have an Opportunity, &c. In the mean Time I am not greatly terrified, because the Damages can't rise higher than the Thing damned : As if I damned a Bag of Cotton, and the Damages prov'd, I can but pay for the Bag.

But I was so far from attempting to ruin his Character (which perhaps may be too late for me to do at this Time of Day), that I can make it appear, I was not so much as officious in his Election, as appears by the following Certificates ;

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Mr.

* perhaps may give the publick Roland Cottons
Dying speech ^{at} ~~at~~ Town meeting

Mr. Thomas Temple's Certificate.

"I THE Subscriber testify and say, That whereas there was a Dis-
 "pute at *Woburn*, Whether Mr. *Roland Cotton*, our late Repre-
 "sentative, was *Neuter* or not, when the Question was put in the
 "Honourable House of Representatives, by *Yea*s and *Nay*s, about supply-
 "ing the Treasury ? I for my own Satisfaction apply'd to Mr. *James*
 "Allen at *Boston*, and desired him to set the Matter in a true Light ;
 "and heard his Opinion ask'd, Whether it might not be best to in-
 "form the Select-Men ? To which the said Mr. *Allen* made Answer,
 "That as to the Thing he thought it notoriously true ; and as it was
 "a publick Fact he'd give it under his Hand to his Friend at *Woburn*,
 "who might show it to Mr. *Cotton* if he deny'd it : But as to send-
 "ing it to the Select-Men, he could by no Means think it proper to
 "intermeddle with the Town Affairs.

Thomas Temple.



Mr. Samuel Thompson's Certificate.

"I THE Subscriber testify to the Truth of the above, and further
 declare, That I applied myself to Mr. *Allen*, Mr. *Cushing* and Mr.
 "Bromfield, and they all satisfied me that he was a *Neuter*.

Samuel Thompson.

But I was credibly inform'd, That this same Mr. *Cotton* made In-
 terest against me with Gentlemen of the Silver Bank, and why not
 equally faulty ? Nay, more faulty than to write to a *private Friend*
 a *public Fact* ? And where is the Difference, as to intermeddling, be-
 tween writing in Favour, or to the Prejudice of a Candidate ? Which
 fairly introduces the Letter of *John Quincy*, Esq;

B

The

* In opposition to *John Quincy* and others, his
 yeas voted for him

The Letter of *John Quincy, Esq;* to
Mr. *Roland Cotton.*

SIR,

"I Am very sorry your Messenger has been detain'd so long, which
"happen'd by my Absence from home, when he came to my
"House, being but this Minute, about Nine o'Clock this Evening come
"home. I am much surprized that any such Report should be spread
"concerning you, relating to the Supply of the Treasury, when the
"Question was decided by *Yea*s and *Nay*s, which I think altogether *false*
"and *groundless*; for I am very sure I did not then call upon you for
"your Vote myself, nor do I remember that any other Person did so.
"And you did very right since you inserted your Name, to do it accord-
"ing to your Judgment.

"I hope that this Report will not be now improved to your Disad-
"vantage in your Election approaching; but that the House of Re-
"presentatives may have your Company and Assistance another Year,
"where I shall be glad to meet with you.

*Who am with great Respect,
Sir your humble Servant,*

*Braintree, May
22. 1740.*

John Quincy.

A true Copy of the Original upon File.
Attest. *John Russel*, Town Clerk for *Woburn.*

Which I think deserves little Notice or Remark; but must ob-
serve, The Reason given, why he thinks the *Report* of said Cotton's
being *Neuter is false and groundless*, because he nor any other Person
call'd upon him; and the Reason he gave for himself was, *That the
Speaker and Clerk were excus'd from voting*; (which is false in Fact)
both which Reasons allow the Fact; but in an idle, silly Manner
endeavour to excuse it, as must be allow'd by every Person capable
of

Lordship's most Obedient, most w^ted

of distinguishing. For the Speaker had no Right to call upon any Man, because the Order of the House was, *That the Clerk should call every Man by Name, and take the Answer Yea or Nay*; and Mr. Memorialist, as Clerk, ought to have call'd upon himself as Representative, (for if he will appear, he ought to act in two Capacities) and not after the Court rises insert his Name in the List of *Nays*, lest his Town should stone him: But all this may do well enough for a six Days *Probatum est* Clerk, for his *Imprimatur* runs for no longer Time.

I shall now give you the Vote of the Honourable House of Representatives, and let every Man of Thought, or even of common Sense, judge the mighty Reason the Memorialist has to crow, or whether he does not glory in his Shame? And how it was possible with the least Propriety, for the House to take any Notice of his Memorial, which they voted not cognizable before 'em, and yet (*tho' in a very slighty Manner*) partly granted the Prayer, and at the same Time *Ordered the Memorial to be dismiss'd*, which is as follows:

PROVINCE of the MAS-
SACHUSETTS-BAY. To the Honourable House
of Representatives Assem-
bled in Boston, May 29. 1740.

The Memorial of Roland Cotton, Representative
of the Town of Woburn,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your Memorialist has had the Honour of a Seat in this House these three Years past, and as a Member thereof, to the utmost endeavour'd to serve the true Interest of his Town and Country with Faithfulness and Integrity.

That the Honourable House of Representatives of the last Year, elected him their Clerk, in which Capacity he serv'd to their Acceptance: Notwithstanding which, Mr. James Allen, one of the Representatives for the Town of Boston for the last and present Year, has

* & the House *... him as a member!*

is full of

slackyness!

" has (by a Letter signed by his own Hand) which has been industriously spread about the Town of Woburn, endeavoured utterly to ruin the Character of your Memorialist with his Constituents, and thereby hinder his Election : The said Letter containing divers Things of your Memorialist which are false and injurious, as will appear from an attested Copy thereof herewith presented to this Honourable House. Your Memorialist therefore humbly prays this Honourable House to take the Premises into your serious Consideration, and take such Measures to vindicate the Honour of this House of Representatives and the Character of your Memorialist, as shall be agreeable to Truth, Justice and the known Integrity of the Representative Body of this Province.

And as in Duty bound shall ever pray.

Roland Cotton.

A true Copy of the Original upon File.

Attest. *Roland Cotton, Cler. Rep.*

Astonishing this to a low and common, or at least tolerable Understanding ! And who can account for it ? That an honest, innocent private Letter, sent to a private Friend by a private Hand, about a private Man, neither of the Parties being either Officers or Members of the Court, not then sitting, or so much as in being, could produce a Complaint or Memorial that could possibly be allow'd so much as to lie on the Table ! I could recite to you many little, low, mean Circumstances and Contrivances of the Memorialist, were it worth while to trouble you, or my self about 'em ; as producing a false Copy of a *præposterous Record* of a Town Clerk, and denying in the House that he had any other Copy ; for which refer you to the Town Clerk's Certificates as follows, *viz.*

Certificates of the Town Clerk of
Woburn, May 31st. 1740.

"THESE may certify whom it may concern, That at the same Time I gave Mr. Roland Cotton a Copy of Mr. James Allen's Letter,

* The Honour of the House of Representatives
Depends upon the character of Mr. Memorialist

" Letter, bearing Date *May* the 15th, 1740. I also gave him a
 " Copy of the Honourable *John Quincy* Esqr's; Letter of *Braintree*,
 " bearing Date *May* the 22d. 1740.

Woburn, May 31. 1740.

John Russel Town Clerk for Woburn.

" **W**HEN I received Mr. *Allen's* Letter, at the lower End thereof,
 " the Paper being folded up and sealed, which Seal I thought to
 " be the sealing of the Letter when sent up to the Town, but this Day
 " upon viewing the same, am of Opinion, there is some writing sealed
 " up, what I do not know, having not opened the Seal but kept it
 " as committed to me.

Woburn, May 31. 1740.

John Russel Town Clerk for Woburn.

As also denying me a Copy of his *superfine Memorial*, and obliged me to move for an Order of the House, and then obtain'd it; and when he was jealous of the Fate of it, stood up with a Paper in his Hand (which I suppose was a Vote ready cut and dry'd) and demanded of the House to vindicate his Character (a fine Business for the House to set upon, and perhaps an impossible Task) But the House not thinking it proper to be cram'd with his Vote, (though the single Point upon the Carpet, and for which the Memorial was refer'd, was, *Whether the Memorial should be sustained or not?*) directed Judge *Graves* and Major *Pomroy* to draw up a proper Vote, which they bro't in, and was accepted by the House, with some Amendments. And now, pray Sir, give your serious and reverend Attention to this mighty *Support of Mr. Memorialist's Character, Parturient Montes!* ---- And I apprehend, it's like giving a Babe a two Penny Rattle to hush him from crying. But see the Vote and judge of it, and what mighty Reason the Chap has to triumph: It is as follows:

The Vote of the House.

" **U**UPON reading a Memorial presented by Mr. *Roland Cotton*, Clerk
 " of the House, referring to a Letter sent by Mr. *James Allen*,
 " containing, as he sets forth, sundry Reflections on him, in order to
 " prevent

" prevent his being elected a Representative, &c. The House came
 " into the following Vote, viz. That although the said Mr. Roland
 " Cotton's Character stands well with the House, yet they are of Opinion
 " it is not proper for the House to enter into the Merits of the Cause
 " contain'd in said Memorial; and therefore Order'd that the same be
 " dismiss'd, and that the said Mr. Roland Cotton be directed to bring
 " in a Bill to prevent any Persons unduly and irregularly influencing
 " others in the Choice of a Representative for the future.

A true Copy Attest. *Roland Cotton Cler. Rep.*

I beg Leave to observe, The Reflections upon which this Memorial is built, are, *as he sets forth, a mighty Foundation of Credit this!* And pray observe how his negative Character is lugg'd in, viz. *That he stands well with this House:* Which could not be judg'd of the 15th of May last when this Letter was wrote: The English of which, I apprehend to be this, *That he has serv'd the House about six Days, and he stands well, because not stigmatiz'd;* and the House judging it not proper to enter into the Merits, allow'd no Opportunity to prove any Thing against him: *A most sure Way not to be detected!* But I perceive the mighty Flourish, and pretty Sugar Plumb is, *That he bring in a Bill to prevent unduly and irregularly influencing future Choices of Representatives,* which I take to be a severe Banter upon him; as no Body can think the House suppos'd him capable of the Thing; but assign'd him the Task as a Punishment for his *impertinent Memorial,* or else perhaps as a fond Parent gives a crying Child a sharp Knife to quiet him, tho' sure to cut his Fingers. But if the *dignified Memorialist,* with some of his own *Stamp,* should put their *Sage Heads* together and jumble up a *Padlock or Wooden Shoe Bill,* and present it, I promise my self the Pleasure of moving to the Honourable House for inserting sundry salutary Clauses; which shall introduce with a merry Story as I heard it from an ingenious Gentleman of my Acquaintance: It is as follows;

" A Weaver in the County of P----b made a Busines of playing upon
 " a Fiddle and drew away many People to hear the Musick;
 " upon which a Complaint or *Memorial* was put into the Church against
 " him, and upon the Trial, (*not before the Trial*) he was order'd to
 " be suspended: But some Time after, the said Weaver mov'd for a
 " Restoration, making a penitent Confession; and the Parson putting

*Tanto molis erat Rolandum condere nomen, ut impine
 factus sit a sight of it, Well bore a hole in Roland's nose, & put
 therein, well lead him up & down the town, that
 may laugh at him*

" the Question, Brother C----n started up and agreed to said Motion,
 " with an Amendment, That the Instrument should be taken away to
 " prevent any such *undue* and *irregular* Practices for the future ; which
 " was voted accordingly : Some Time after it so happen'd, that Bro-
 " ther C----n was a Widower (or if a Batchelor, is all one) and had
 " a handsome Maid, and happening to be too active, said Maid prov'd
 " with Child ; upon which Brother C----n was call'd before the
 " Church and suspended ; and afterwards mov'd for Restoration ; which
 " charitable Brother Weaver agreed to with this Amendment, *That*
 " *the Instrument should be taken away, to prevent such more than undue*
 " *and irregular influencing the Propagation of Mankind for the future :*
 " Which was voted accordingly.

Any Person that makes a Business of kissing the Girls, that treats high, and begs hard for a Choice both in Town Meeting and out of it, that takes his Estate (which qualifies him for a Choice) from his Ancestors by Deed of Gift to defraud the honest Creditors of their just Demands, which perhaps may be more than the whole Estate ; every Person so offending, shall be render'd for ever uncapable of a Seat in the House of Representatives. These cursory Hints I give on a sudden, and perhaps may muster up more by the Time the Bill (*in Embrio*, to be fram'd by *an Embrio*) has a second Reading. In the mean Time I beg Pardon for the Trouble given you, and believe me to be

SIR,

Your most Humble Servant,

BOSTON, July 25.
 1740.

James Allen.

To

— — — If this ^{is to} be Try'd by the House of Repre-
 sentatives, May we all be Galley slaves

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